

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 IO-13 EB-11 AID-20 SAJ-01

ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 INT-08 AGR-20 CIEP-02 STR-08 HEW-08 SCI-06

CU-04 RSR-01 /202 W

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R 251159 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4275

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 9826

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH TH

SUBJECT: MEETINGS BETWEEN RTG AND PRC OFFICIALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. BANGKOK 9620

B. BANGKOK 9713

SUMMARY. RTG FONMIN OFFICIAL INFORMED EMBOFF THAT RTG
EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH DISCUSSIONS HELD LAST WEEK WITH
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CHENG JUI- SHENG, SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS CHIEF IN PRC FONMIN, WHO ALSO DOUBLED AS DEPUTY LEADER OF PRC PING PONG CONTINGENT. FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID THAT BOTH SIDES DISCUSSED ALL MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND ADDED CAUTIOUS PERSONAL OPINION THAT TALKS MIGHT ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF RTG- PRC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. RTG FONMIN OFFICIAL TEJ BUNNAG, CHIEF OF EAST ASIA DIVISION, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT RTG EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH DISCUSSIONS HELD LAST WEEK WITH CHENG JUI- SHENG, SOUTHEAST ASIAN AFFAIRS CHIEF IN PRC FONMIN, WHO ALSO DOUBLED AS DEPUTY LEADER OF CHINESE TABLE TENNIS CONTINGENT WHICH VISITED BANGKOK JUNE 19-24. HIGHLIGHT OF DISCUSSIONS WAS A MEETING WITH RTG DEPFONMIN CHARTCHAI ON JUNE 21.

2. ACCORDING TO TEJ, PRC WILL DEFINITELY ESTABLISH PERMANENT DELEGATION TO ECAFE HQS IN BANGKOK PRIOR TO NEXT ECAFE GENERAL SESSION IN SPRING 1974. ALTHOUGH CHINESE HAVE INDICATED THEY PLAN TO SEND ADVANCE TEAM IN SEPTEMBER, RTG WOULD PREFER TO HAVE GROUP ARRIVE BEFORE UNGA IN ORDER TO ALLOW DEPFONMIN CHARTCHAI TO RECEIVE THEM.

3. TEJ WAS EVASIVE WHEN QUERIED RE RTG POSITION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS AN ULTIMATE POSSIBILITY, INDICATING THAT PRC ECAFE DELEGATION WOULD SERVE AS LIAISON BETWEEN PRC AND RTG, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO ESTABLISH RTG LIAISON OFFICE IN PEKING. TEJ ADDED THAT RTG CONSULATE BEING ESTABLISHED IN MACAO WILL SERVE PRIMARILY TO KEEP AN EYE ON SINO- THAI TRAVELERS TO PRC.

4. TEJ STATED THAT PRC ATTITUDE TOWARD RTG RELATIONS WITH US AND TAIWAN REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM THAT WHICH THE CHINESE INDICATED TO THE THAI DURING THE LATTER' S PING PONG VISIT TO PEKING LAST YEAR. ALTHOUGH PEKING RECOGNIZES LONG HISTORICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND US, IN PRINCIPLE IT IS OPPOSED TO FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN SEA AND WOULD ASSUME, ONCE HOSTILITIES IN AREA ARE OVER, THAT US FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM THAILAND.

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5. ON MATTER OF PRC SUPPORT FOR INSURGENCIES, CHENG " FOLLOWED USUAL LINE, THAT IS PEKING OPENLY SUPPORTS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT WORLD, BUT CANNOT EXPORT REVOLUTION; IF THAI PEOPLE DO NOT WANT REVOLUTION, THERE IS NOTHING CHINESE CAN DO ABOUT IT." (THIS IS SOMEWHAT STRONGER THAN LANGUAGE REPORTEDLY USED BY CHOU EN- LAI WITH THE THAI LAST YEAR, BUT DIFFERENCE MAY BE IN THE

RE- TELLING. TEJ INTERPRETED IT AS BEING THE SAME FORMULATION AS LAST YEAR.) CHENG PROMISED TO CONVEY THAI VIEWS TO PEKING. ACCORDING NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, THIS INCLUDED THAI DISPLEASURE WITH CHINESE SUPPORT BOTH FOR INSURGENCY AND FOR VOICE OF PEOPLE OF THAILAND RADIO BROADCASTS.

6. CONCERNING TRADE, CHENG CAME WITH LIST OF COMMODITIES WHICH PRC IS PREPARED TO BUY FROM THAILAND. TEJ SAID THESE WERE NOT PRODUCTS USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH POSSIBLE THAI-PRC TRADE (TIN, RUBBER). ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY COMMODITIES OR SPECULATE AS TO HOW SOON TRADE MIGHT COMMENCE, TEJ CLAIMED RTG COMMERCE MINISTRY WAS ALREADY WORKING ON PRC PROPOSAL.

7. TEJ ADDED THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED ON FURTHER EXCHANGES OF SPORTS TEAMS AND IN MEDICAL FIELD. CULTURAL EXCHANGES, HOWEVER, WERE NOT INCLUDED. TEJ FURTHER COMMENTED THAT PING PONG VISIT PROVIDED SOME REASSURANCE TO RTG RE ATTITUDES OF LOCAL CHINESE. REACTION OF LOCAL CHINESE, ALTHOUGH ENTHUSIASTIC, WAS NOT OF A NATURE OR PROPORTION TO AROUSE CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE AUTHORITIES.

8. IN CONCLUSION, TEJ VOICED CAUTIOUS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE TALKS MIGHT ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF RTG- PRC RELATIONS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH SIDES ARE AWARE OF THE VERY GREAT STRIDES MADE IN THE PAST YEAR-- HIS IMPLICATION BEING THAT THERE IS NO DISSATISFACTION ON EITHER SIDE WITH THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS. TEJ COMPARED THAI SUCCESS IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH PEKING WITH THAT OF U. S., INDICATING HIS BELIEF THAT THEY HAVE GAINED A GREAT DEAL WITHOUT SACRIFICING BASIC INTERESTS.
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